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**Riverside County Farm Bureau, Inc.**

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

**June 26, 1998**

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program**  
**1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**Attention: Rick Breitenbach**

**JUN 29 1998**

**Subject: Comments on draft programmatic EIS/EIR**

Farmers in Riverside County have concerns about CALFED's proposals, and the Riverside County Farm Bureau Board of Directors agreed to bring these matters to your attention.

Too much of the burden for meeting California's future water needs is being placed on agriculture. The cost of delta improvements and new water supplies must be shared equitably.

CALFED's solution must provide more reliable water supplies. Taking large amounts of agricultural lands out of production is not an acceptable solution: this translates into assuring some users of reliable water supplies at the expense of others, specifically at the expense of agriculture. A more reasonable approach is needed, one which conserves our agricultural resources.

Increased water storage is a vital element that has been neglected in CALFED's solution. We absolutely must plan for increased water storage to meet future needs. The best form of conservation is to save excess water in wet years -- such as this year -- against future needs. Added water storage is vital to meet environmental and human needs in the future.

Any solution must protect and strengthen water rights. Water rights are essential for a stable economy, and any plans that weakens water rights ultimately threatens the stability of our economic foundation.

Water is fungible; any process that changes the supply and demand ultimately affects all users throughout the state. Farmers throughout Riverside County have an equal interest in a CALFED solution that meets the needs of agriculture as well as the needs of environmental and urban demands. We cannot accept a CALFED process that fails to benefit -- or even harms -- agriculture.

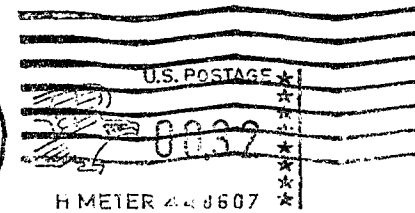
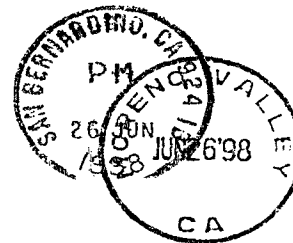
**Sincerely,**

**Robert Eli Perkins**  
**Executive Manager**

Riverside County Farm Bureau  
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MORENO VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92557



THE VOICE OF  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
AGRICULTURE



JUN 29 1998

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1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES  
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